

House Joint Resolution 2002 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2002

BY HAGER and MOORE

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa establishing term limits for members of
3 the general assembly.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 **Representatives.** SEC. 3. The members of the house of
6 representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the
7 qualified electors of their respective districts, and their
8 term of office shall commence on the first day of January next
9 after their election, and continue two years, and until their
10 successors are elected and qualified. No person who has, or
11 but for resignation would have, served four consecutive terms
12 shall be elected as a representative for the succeeding term.
13 If a person is elected to serve a portion of a term to which
14 some other person was elected but that person died in office
15 or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,
16 those years served shall not be included in the consecutive
17 years of service for purposes of this limitation. This
18 limitation on consecutive years of service shall only apply to
19 terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

20 2. Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
21 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

22 **Senators — qualifications.** SEC. 5. Senators shall be
23 chosen for the term of four years, at the same time and place as
24 representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and
25 possess the qualifications of representatives as to residence
26 and citizenship. No person who has, or but for resignation
27 would have, served two consecutive terms shall be elected as
28 a senator for the succeeding term. If a person is elected
29 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was
30 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office
31 or was otherwise removed from office, those years served
32 shall not be included in the consecutive years of service for
33 purposes of this limitation. This limitation on consecutive
34 years of service shall only apply to terms of office beginning
35 on or after January 1, 2017.

1 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment
2 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
3 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election
4 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of
5 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three
6 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
7 provided by law.

EXPLANATION

9 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
10 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to term of service
11 for persons elected to the offices of representative or senator
12 in the general assembly. The amendment provides that any
13 person elected as a representative shall be eligible to serve
14 four consecutive terms in that position, but shall not be
15 eligible to serve a fifth consecutive term. The amendment
16 provides that any person elected as a senator shall be eligible
17 to serve two consecutive terms in that position, but shall not
18 be eligible to serve a third consecutive term. The amendment
19 therefore limits the offices of representatives and senators
20 to eight consecutive years of service. The amendment provides
21 that filling a vacancy for a portion of a term shall not count
22 as consecutive years of service. The limitation on consecutive
23 years of service shall commence with terms of office beginning
24 on or after January 1, 2017.

25 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
26 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the
27 electorate for ratification.